

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07

SSM-03 IO-13 TRSE-00 /073 W

-----051310Z 066739 /45

O R 051201Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3545

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS LE IS SY MILI

SUBJ: MIXED INDICATIONS FROM THE SOUTH

REF: BEIRUT 1479

1. SUMMARY: GOL AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR CATEGORICALLY DENY THAT SUBSTANTIAL ELEMENTS OF AIN JALUT BRIGADE HAVE LANDED AT TYRE. OTHER SOURCES AGREE DESPITE CONTINUED LEBANESE ARMY G-2 INSISTENCE ON ITS EARLIER REPORT. AFTER CHRISTIANS SEIZED TAIBEH LAST WEEK, AND AFTER COORDINATED PALESTINIAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE OVER WEEKEND, AS OF EARLY APRIL 5 IT APPEARS CHRISTIANS HAVE RECAPTURED TAIBEH. ISRAELIS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE DIRECT ARTILLERY SUPPORT OF CHRISTIANS. SYRIANS, FOR FIRST TIME, DIRECTLY SUPPORT PALESTINIANS AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH FROM ARTILLERY POSITIONS FURTHER
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NORTH. END SUMMARY.

2. AIN JALUT BRIGADE. BEIRUT PRESS APRIL 5 CARRIES "OFFICIAL DENIALS" BY BOTH MINISTER OF INTERIOR SALMAN AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR METWALLI THAT AIN JALUT BRIGADE ELEMENTS HAVE LANDED AT TYRE. COMMANDER OF GENDARMERIE CONFIRMS TO EMBASSY FSL THAT HE PERSONALLY

SENT TO INVESTIGATE AND THERE IS NO TRUTH TO STORY.
NEVERTHELESS, LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SOURCES MORNING OF APRIL
5 REASSERT THEIR ACCOUNT OF APRIL 4 THAT SUBSTANTIAL
NUMBER OF AIN JALUT BRIGADE TROOPS HAVE LANDED AT TYRE.

3. SEESAW BATTLE AT TAIBEH. IT NOW APPEARS THAT,
SUBSEQUENT TO CHRISTIAN SEIZURE OF TAIBEH LAST WEEK,
PALESTINIANS BETWEEN APRIL 2 AND 4 DID UNDERTAKE
COORDINATED COUNTEROFFENSIVE IN AREA BETWEEN TWO
CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED ZONES IN THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY
AT TAIBEH. TAIBEH WAS STILL CONTESTED LATE APRIL 4.
EARLY APRIL 5, LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SOURCES STATE
CHRISTIAN FORCES DURING NIGHT OF APRIL 4-5 REGAINED
FULL CONTROL OF THE VILLAGE, AS THEY HAD 48 HOURS
EARLIER. G-2 SOURCES ALSO STATE THAT CHRISTIAN FORCES
IN MARJAYUN HAVE REPELLED PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS
WHICH HAD INTRUDED INTO CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE TOWN.

4. ISRAELI SUPPORT OF CHRISTIANS. ISRAELI ARTILLERY
SUPPORT OF CHRISTIANS IN BORDER AREA IS NOT NEW, BUT
WE NOTE THAT RADIO ISRAEL EARLY APRIL 5 (FOR FIRST
TIME, WE BELIEVE, SINCE ISRAELI "RETALIATION" AGAINST
A PALESTINIAN ROCKET ATTACK SEVERAL MONTHS AGO)
REPORT ISRAELI ARTILLERY FIRE IN RESPONSE TO
PALESTINIAN ARTILLERY FIRE INTO ISRAEL. RADIO ISRAEL
ALSO SAYS SOME TWENTY WOUNDED CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN
BROUGHT TO ISRAEL FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID.
LEBANESE G-2 SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT APPROXIMATELY
25 CASUALTIES WERE TREATED IN ISRAEL.
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5. SYRIAN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS. LEBANESE ARMY
G-2 SOURCES SAY THAT SYRIANS AT AYSHAYAH (BETWEEN
NABATIYAH AND JAZZIN) HAVE BEEN FIRING BOTH 130 MM
FIELD GUNS AND 140 MM ROCKETS IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS
AGAINST CHRISTIANS AT TAIBEH AND AT MARJAYUN. (RADIO
ISRAEL APRIL 5 REPORTS SYRIAN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS
IN BORDER AREA, BUT WITHOUT DETAILS.) COMMENT:
SYRIANS HAVE CAPABILITY OF COVERING BORDER AREAS NEAR
MARJAYUN AND TIBNIN WITH ARTILLERY FIRE FROM AS FAR
NORTH AS JAZZIN. THIS IS FIRST REPORT WE HAVE SEEN
OF SYRIAN DIRECT MILITARY SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS
AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN A YEAR. IT IS BOUND TO HAVE
POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS IN LEBANON. WE WOULD
WELCOME EMBASSY DAMASCUS COMMENTS. END COMMENT.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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